

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9497

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4541

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PK

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON "SCOPE" OF VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: ISLAMABAD 4532

1. DURING MY LONG MEETING WITH BHUTTO AT NATHIAGALI ON JUNE 3, I INQUIRED ON PARTICULAR INTERESTS HE FORE-
SAW IN STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON JULY 17-18. HE
PONDERED A BIT AND THEN SAID HE WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY
INTERESTED, IN COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL
CONVERSATION WITH PRES NIXON, IN GETTING USG VIEW ON
LIKELY FUTURE COURSE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH USSR AND
PRC, AND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES WITH
PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO EFFECT ON SUBCONTINENT. GOP
MAY HAVE VIEWS OF ITS OWN AND CONCERN, FOR EXAMPLE,
REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS IN SUBCONTINENT, PERSIAN
GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN. BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW
THESE VIEWS COINCIDE WITH OR DIVERGE FROM OURS. HE
THOUGHT FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT TO WASHINGTON
WOULD PROVIDE USG WITH FRESH BASIS FOR PROBING AND
ASSESSING SOVIET AIMS WORLDWIDE, AND HE HOPED THIS WOULD
ALSO PROVIDE INSIGHT RE SUBCONTINENT. BHUTTO REFERRED
AT THAT POINT TO HEAVY US ARMS SALES TO IRAN, WHICH HE
ASSUMED REFLECTED AT LEAST SOME SHARING OF ASSESSMENT
WITH GOI ON FUTURE THREAT. BHUTTO THEN SURPRISED ME
BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD ALSO WISH TO HEAR OUR VIEWS ON
LIKELIHOOD THAT USSR AND PRC MIGHT SEE IT IN THEIR
CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN NOT- TOO- DISTANT FUTURE TO SUBLIMATE THEIR
DIFFERENCES AND DECIDE TO "GET TOGETHER." I TAKE THAT
AS REFLECTING CONCERN, IN PART, THAT CHINA AND INDIA
MIGHT COME CLOSER AND THAT THIS COULD BASICALLY AFFECT

PAKISTAN' S RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR POWERS IN ASIA.

2. ON BILATERAL MATTERS, BHUTTO SAID HE MIGHT SOLICIT
USG HELP TO PAKISTAN FOR EITHER THE " CONQUEST OF DESERTS"
OR FOR MAJOR PROGRAM TO COMBAT WATERLOGGING/ SALINITY.
ON FIRST POINT HE NOTED THAT ALL FOUR PROVINCES OF
PAKISTAN HAVE SUBSTANTIAL DESERT AREAS. SEVERAL TIMES
HE MENTIONED PROGRESS WHICH ISRAEL HAD BEEN ABLE TO
MAKE IN MAKING THE DESERTS BLOOM. PROGRESS ALONG THIS
LINE IN PAKISTAN COULD REVOLUTIONIZE NATIONAL ECONOMY.
WITH REGARD TO WATERLOGGING/ SALINITY, I ASKED IF HE
WAS THINKING OF ANOTHER MISSION SUCH AS UNDERTAKEN IN
EARLY 1960 S BY ROGER REVELLE AND WHETHER HE ALSO HAD
IN MIND THE SCARP (SALINITY CONTROL AND RECLAMATION
PROJECT) WHICH WE HAD INSTITUTED NUMBER OF YEARS AGO.
BHUTTO RESPONDED THAT HE HAD SOMETHING IN MIND CONSIDER-
ABLY LARGER THAN PAST SCARPS. HE THEN SAID HE WOULD
ALSO PLAN RAISE POSSIBILITY OF OUR COLLABORATION IN
CONSTRUCTING A NEW PORT ON ARABIAN SEA COAST OF BALUCHISTAN
PROVINCE. IN THAT CONNECTION, " FACILITIES" COULD BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO USG IF WE DESIRED. I NOTED THAT WE
HAD RESPONDED ON SAME QUESTION A YEAR AGO BY STATING
THAT, WHEREAS WE WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF
SOME COLLABORATION WITH GOP ON CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT,
WE HAD NO PRESENT DESHOLD BE ELECT ALLOWED
TO LATER IF
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